



Arizona Department of Water Resources
GROUNDWATER USERS ADVISORY COUNCIL
Tucson Active Management Area

JOHN MAWHINNEY
Chair

DAN M. OFFRET
Vice-Chair

VAL LITTLE

DEE O'NEILL

Minutes
May 14, 2009

Members Present: John Mawhinney, Chair
Dan M. Offret, Vice-Chair
Val Little

Tucson Staff Present: Jeff Tannler
Mary Bauer
Laura Grignano
Diane Kusel

Others Present: Mitch Basefsky, CAP
Michael Block, Metro Water District
Kathy Chavez, Pima County
Hector Conde, Concerned Citizen
Anthony Cuaron, Town of Marana
Andrea Dalessandro, Candidate LD30/Concerned Citizen
Jim Davis, Montgomery & Associates
Virgil Davis, Community Water Company
Arturo Gabaldón, Community Water Company
Matthew Garcia, Arizona Water Institute
Eve Halper, Bureau of Reclamation
Eric Holler, Bureau of Reclamation
Holly Lachowicz, City of Tucson – Ward 3
Karen LaMartina, Tucson Water
John R. Maisch, DMAFB
Andrew Messer, URS Corp
Jim Peterson, Town of Oro Valley
Kenneth Seasholes, CAP
Sidney Smith, CMID
Tamara Underwood, Lewis & Roca
Wally Wilson, Tucson Water
Claire Zucker, PAG

1. Call to Order

Chair John Mawhinney called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. Introductions were made.

Mr. Mawhinney announced that since the last meeting, GUAC member Larry Kempton has resigned from the council. Also mentioned was Dee O'Neill's term will expire in January 2010.

Historically, the Tucson AMA GUAC members represented the various sectors of the AMA, but this is not mandatory. Statute states "...Members of the council shall be appointed by the governor to represent the users of groundwater in the active management area and on the basis of their knowledge of, interest in and experience with problems relating to the development, use and conservation of water..."

Anyone interested in applying to be considered for appointment to the GUAC is asked to contact Jeff Tannler, Area Director of the Tucson AMA office.

2. Approval of Minutes

Val Little made a motion to approve the minutes of March 25, 2009. Dan M. Offret seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

3. Update on Aspects and Elements of the Northwest Water Providers CAP Reliability Reservoir

Eric Holler from the Tucson office of the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) was invited to give an update on the NW water providers' CAP reliability reservoir. The BOR has been working with the NW providers for over 15 years studying possible ways the providers could use their CAP allocations.

After examining various alternatives, the option of treatment and direct delivery of CAP water was chosen. This method was viewed as the best option due to costs and the ability to better control water quality. The different treatment options studied included: conventional treatment, micro-filtration, and slow-sand filtration. Reverse osmosis was also examined as a method that could potentially be used to remove salts, as CAP water salt content is quite high. With this decision came the need for a reliability feature. Based on historical studies, the best alternative is a surface reservoir.

One of the functions of the Tucson Reliability Division (TRD), authorized under the CAP, is to provide CAP water to Tucson area CAP subcontractors for planned annual 30 day maintenance outages. As a result of this Division being in place, the Plan 6 Funding Agreement – Tucson Area Reliability Commitment - was executed.

Since Tucson's location is at the end of the system with parts of it having no redundancy, it is more vulnerable to outages than users in the Phoenix area. Therefore, in 1992 a resolution was agreed upon by the BOR, Central Arizona Water Conservation District (CAWCD) and the City of Tucson, which states that during scheduled canal maintenance outages, the BOR and CAWCD would be responsible for 30 days of water delivery to the Tucson area. An additional 17 days of delivery would be the local responsibility.

There is a total of 21,235 acre-feet of reliability volumes for the CAP subcontract holders. Of this amount the NW water providers' volume comes to 2,277 acre-feet. The NW Providers include Oro Valley Water Utility, Metro Water District, Town of Marana, and Flowing Wells Irrigation District.

The preliminary sizing of the reservoir volume totals approximately 3,200 acre-feet. The major component of it is to ensure reliability. Others benefits may include flood control, recreation, environmental mitigation, and water treatment (operational elements and water quality). In addition, there may be an operational benefit for CAP to store water from upstream.

There is a federal authority that requires looking at providing public recreation on lands with water projects. Some of the possible recreational activities include: fishing; sporting and concert events; picnicking or camping; hiking; pet runs; and cycling. Any activities will be strictly controlled and managed, as well as being designated outside the reservoir drainage area.

Other amenities considered include: equestrian trails; multiple trailheads; visitor centers, and a science center related to archaeology or biology. The BOR is also working with Marana's Habitat Conservation Plan to look at the possibility of designing a multispecies reserve that would surround the reservoir area.

The 2010 TRD budget is approximately \$2.2 million. Cost allocations for Tucson projects will need to be refined. The anticipated completion date for the construction of the NW reliability reservoir is 2014.

4. Update on Institutional Policy Advisory Group (IPAG) Activities

John Mawhinney reported that IPAG has been meeting to discuss the potential for transferring Municipal and Industrial (M&I) water from one AMA to another. For example, if the Phoenix AMA were in a position where it had excess water and money but not enough storage capacity, would it be possible for it to store water in the Tucson AMA? IPAG has concluded that the GUAC should recommend to ADWR and CAWCD that evaluation of this process continue.

Discussions are also continuing on differential pricing for storing Arizona Water Banking Authority (AWBA) water in Groundwater Savings Facilities in the Tucson AMA. IPAG has concluded that the GUAC should recommend to the AWBA that it continue to move forward on implementing the differential pricing scheme currently designed by the AWBA. Also, recommendation should be made to continue working on recovery issues.

Dee Fuerst and Tom Harbour of CAWCD have been invited to attend the next IPAG meeting to start stakeholder/management discussions on CAP recovery planning in the Tucson AMA. Discussions will also occur on the status of the Tucson AMA recharge demonstration projects (Avra Valley, Pima Mine and Lower Santa Cruz) and the potential sale of the Avra Valley project.

5. Discussion of GUAC Advisement to ADWR on Fourth Management Plan Process

The Arizona Groundwater Management Act was passed in 1980 with the goal of reaching safe yield by 2025; a series of five management plans would be implemented to reach the goal. Currently, the AMAs are regulated under the Third Management Plan; the TMP conservation requirements will continue until the Fourth Management Plan (4MP) takes effect. Although the 4MP was scheduled to be promulgated by January 1, 2008, development of the 4MP is somewhat behind due to budget constraints and ADWR staffing levels.

Tucson Area Director Jeff Tannler reported that the precursor to the 4MP is the AMA Assessment, which is being done to assist in determining whether safe yield can actually be met by 2025. The historical 1985-2006 historic water budget portion of the Assessment is

completed and available on ADWR's website. Currently, projections are being done on water demand through 2025 and what supplies would be available to meet the demand.

ADWR staff will present the draft Assessment at an upcoming GUAC meeting and solicit members' advice.

6. Area Director Report

Jeff Tannler reported on the current budget situation. Fiscal year 2009 was cut substantially from the previous fiscal year's budget which was around \$23 million. Current numbers (as of mid-May) being looked at for fiscal year 2010 are around \$10.1 million, which equates to roughly a 60% reduction. Many programs would have to be cut, including possibly the closing of remote offices. It is hoped that the legislature didn't intend to take the budget down to \$10.1 million for 2010 and that the Department's budget will be restored to this year's base of \$18.4 million, which is still a 20% cut. The budget situation changes frequently and it is unknown when a final resolution will occur. More information will be communicated as it becomes available.

Next, Mr. Tannler announced the submittal date for Annual Water Withdrawal and Use Reports was March 31st. Staff are busy compiling and reviewing the data with a deadline of having the annual report data entered by August 31st.

Also noted was the Department has been able to work with an intern that was hired through the Arizona Water Institute, Water CASA and the Southern Arizona Water Users Association to assist in tasks leading to updating the Tucson groundwater model through 2008.

The new ADWR website is up and running, with much of the help coming from Christina Bickelmann. The site should be much easier to navigate; feedback is encouraged.

John Bodenchuk and Diane Kusel have been working on the creation of a recharge database, which should be very useful and functional when completed.

The Modified Non-Per Capital Conservation Program (MNPCCP) was implemented as a modification of the Third Management Plan. Entrance to this program is required for all large, undesignated municipal providers located within an Active Management Area. Designated providers have the option of entering or remaining in the Total GPCD Program. MNPCCP Provider Profiles are due by July 1, 2009.

The Annual Xeriscape Contest Ceremony was held in conjunction with the More Green Per Drop Festival on April 25th at the Tucson Botanical Gardens (TBG).

7. Public Comment

Mike Block, Metro Water District, reported the CAP Recovery Plan will go before the CAWCD Board on September 17th.

Hector Conde reported that he conducted a water sustainability study for the NW Oracle corridor, which showed at build-out there would not be enough water to sustain the area. He noted there are no CAP contracts, nor recharge projects in place for these developments. It was clarified that for these developments to occur it would have to be proven that water would be physically available for 100 years, and not rely solely on groundwater. Many developers accomplish this by joining the Central Arizona Groundwater Replenishment District (CAGR).

The CAGR D would replenish the water on behalf of the developments but not necessarily in the area from where the water was withdrawn.

John Mawhinney reported that Tucson Water had turned back 42,000 acre-feet of CAP water that had been ordered. Of this amount 27,000 acre-feet was taken by other municipalities in Maricopa County. The remaining water will be stored at CAVSARP for M&I purposes. Mr. Mahwinney questioned whether the CAWCD Board should be contacted to suggest when CAP water is turned back that it be kept within the AMA, if possible.

John Mawhinney announced that Jon Post and Chuck Sweet's GUAC terms have expired. To recognize their long-term commitment and service, plaques have been ordered and a letter of thanks prepared.

Lastly, Mr. Mawhinney questioned whether the Pima County Dept. of Environmental Quality has a similar council as that of the GUAC. If so, perhaps they could be invited to a future GUAC meeting to discuss water quality issues.

8. Date and Agenda for Next Meeting

Based on when the draft Assessment is ready to be presented will dictate the next meeting date. GUAC members will be polled on their availability.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.